

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /054 W

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P R 010345Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9180

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUNC SEOUL KS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN MOPS KS KN US

SUBJ: ROK REACTION TO PANMUNJOM DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 206131 DTG 190517Z AUG 76, (B) SEOUL 6845

DTG 310810Z AUG 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: REPORTS ON WORKING-LEVEL MEETING AT PANMUNJOM
BROUGHT HEADLINES, BUT PAPERS HAD LITTLE TO SAY SINCE MEETING
CLOSED TO PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 31, KOREAN PRESS HEADLINED SECRETARIES' MEETING
ANNOUNCED FOR FIVE PM THAT DAY AT PANMUNJOM. KOREAN SOURCES
WERE QUOTED AS DESCRIBING PURPOSES OF MEETING DESPITE STRICT
ROK BAN ON SUCH SPECULATION. OTHERWISE TREATMENT IN NEWS
STORIES WAS MOSTLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, ALTHOUGH TONGA ILBO INTER-
WOVE COMMENTARY ON "GREAT RETREAT AND CONCESSION" BY UNC SIDE
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IN DECIDING NOT TO BRING SUBJECT OF PUNISHMENT UP IN MEETING

AND IN REDUCING TREATMENT OF INCIDENT TO WORKING LEVEL. SEPT. 1 PRESS HAS CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES ON SECRETARIES MEETING BUT NOT ALL UNDER HEADLINES AND ARTICLES CONTAIN ALMOST NO NEWS SINCE PRESS HAS BEEN BARRED FROM COVERING MEETING.

2. EDITORIALS APPEARING ON AUGUST 31 IN CHUNGANG ILBO AND SHINA ILBO STRESSED THEME OF SETTLING PROBLEMS OF PUNISHMENT AND GUARANTEES OF SECURITY FIRST, AND THEN GOING ON TO DEAL WITH NORTH KOREAN (NK) PROPOSAL TO SPLIT JSA (JOINT SECURITY AREA). TONGA ILBO (IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "LESSONS OF 8/18") ADDED THAT INCIDENT HAD PROVED NECESSITY FOR CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. TROOPS ON FRONT LINE AND CALLED FOR STRENGTHENING OF ROK-US COOPERATION. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH STRONG PLEA FOR INCLUSION OF ROK IN ANY ATTEMPTS WASHINGTON MIGHT MAKE TO WIDEN ITS CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH NK.
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